



27th March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Removal of jewellery and body piercings for physical education and sporting activities

I am writing to clarify the Academy's position on the removal of jewellery and body piercings for all PE lessons and sporting activities. Following recent legislative changes, we have reviewed our existing policy to ensure our students undertake physical education and sporting activities safely.

The wearing of any jewellery, earrings and ear-studs (metal or plastic) will no longer be permitted for safety reasons during PE lessons, as well as other sporting activities such as competitive fixtures and extra curricular clubs. This also includes body piercings such as tongue studs or belly button jewellery.

These items represent a potential hazard not only to the wearer but also to other students. Legislative advice confirms that any jewellery worn in physical education lessons is an unnecessary risk and should be avoided at all times. Serious accidents have occurred as a result of contact between students wearing earrings or studs and other students or equipment, thus damaging the ear, or where items of jewellery have caught in apparatus and torn the ear lobe.

This clarification of our policy also relates to the use of plasters to cover any piercings as this is also now not permitted. As a result of this, we recommend that students should be encouraged to leave items of jewellery and earrings at home on days when they have physical education lessons, are participating in fixtures or attending clubs run by the PE faculty.

Newly pierced ears can take a period of up to six weeks before jewellery can be removed. To accommodate recent piercings these changes will take effect after the May half term, from Monday 3rd June. From that date students will be required to remove all jewellery and/or piercings as outlined above; refusal will result in staff following the Arnold Hill Academy behaviour pathway.

As I am sure you would agree, the safety of our pupils is of paramount importance and we hope that you will actively work with us in helping to minimise disruption to the physical education curriculum. Parents can help by ensuring that the policy is adhered to and that new piercings happen at a convenient time, e.g. the start of the summer holidays.

We would also like to make it clear that parents cannot assume responsibility, or liability for the outcome of any future injury arising from the wearing of any jewellery, including the covering of plasters since any such undertaking cannot be legally valid.

The information within this letter can also be found on the Academy's website. Further advice can be found in the following publication: Association for Physical Education Safe Practice in Physical Education & School Sport (copy available to view in school).

Arnold Hill Academy is part of the Spencer Academies Trust

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If you have any queries regarding this you can contact me on the number above or via email on oliver.quail@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr O Quail
Head of Physical Education